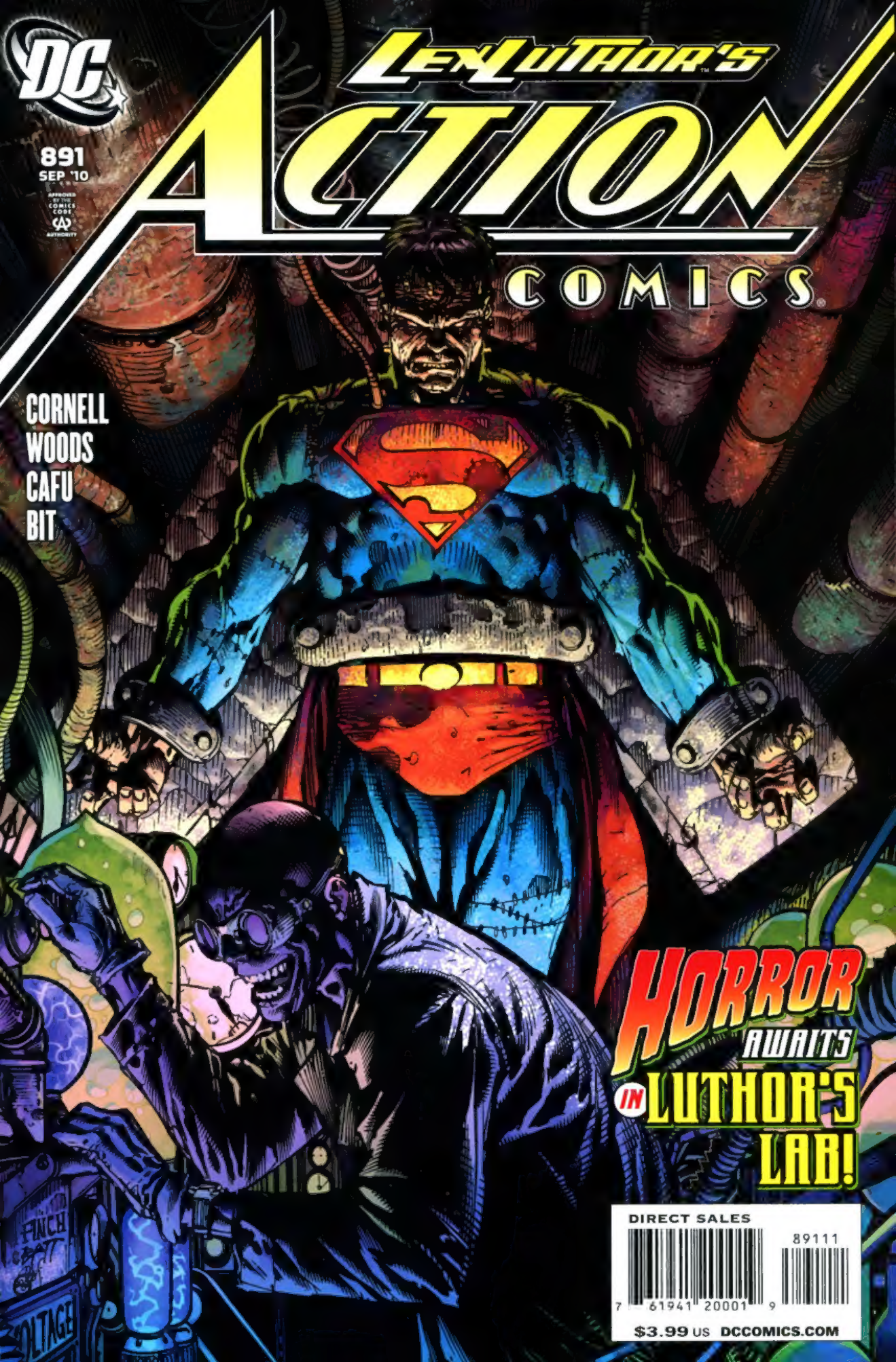
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LEX LUTHOR IN:
THE BLACK RING
PART TWO
THAT'S EXACTLY MY POINT, OG.
PAUL CORNELL
cro-magnon writer
PETE WOODS & CAFU
prehistoric pencillers
WOODS & BIT immemorial inkers
BRAD ANDERSON primeval colorist
ROB LEIGH antediluvian letterer
DAVID FINCH, BATT &
PETER STEIGERWALD
olden cover artists
WIL MOSS aboriginal asst. editor
MATT IDELSON superannuated editor
SUPERMAN created by
JERRY SIEGEL & JOE SHUSTER
BORN IN SMALLVILLE BUT BELIEVING HIMSELF SUPERIOR, HE MURDERED HIS FATHER TO ESCAPE SMALL-TOWN AMERICA AND BUILT AN EMPIRE ON HIS GENIUS. THE SWORN ENEMY OF SUPERMAN, HE HAS VOWED THAT THE WORLD WILL TURN ITS BACK ON THE MAN OF STEEL AND INSTEAD EMBRACE HUMANITY'S CHAMPION... AND FUTURE RULER...
LEX LUTHOR

WE SPEND OUR LIVES WORKING--

--SO HARD.

FOR SUCH MEAGER REWARDS.

COMPARED TO THOSE WHO WERE BORN REWARDED.

WELL, THE REST OF YOU CAN STAY HERE.
I'M GOING TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT.
KALOOG!
?

FZAP
YEARGH!

MY PEOPLE!

SEE WHAT I HAVE BROUGHT FOR YOU!

I TOOK IT FROM THOSE WHO DIDN'T DESERVE IT!

AND I DID IT ALL BY *MYSELF.*

THERE WE ARE!

I'VE TOLD LUTHOR'S CONSCIOUS MIND TO FANTASIZE--
--FANTASIES WHICH HE BELIEVES ARE REAL.
ONE: IT'S THE IDEAL DISTRACTION.
WHEN HE'S ACCEPTED THE ILLUSIONS DEEPLY ENOUGH, I'LL BE ABLE TO HAVE A FIDDLE WITH HIS...CALL IT HIS BRAIN'S MACHINE CODE...
...IF THAT'S A METAPHOR YOU UNDERSTAND...
WHATEVER YOU ARE.
AND TWO:
THE CONTENT OF THE ILLUSIONS THEMSELVES WILL HELP MAKE HIM THINK WHAT YOU WANT HIM TO THINK.
FOR WHATEVER REASON.
ANYWAY--
--HOPE YOU ENJOY WHAT YOU SEE.
IF YOU'RE WATCHING.
AND I'LL BE HERE TO MAKE SURE NOTHING GOES WRONG.

Ah!

I...MUST HAVE FALLEN ASLEEP.

THAT DREAM... IT SEEMED SO...

MASTER?

ARE WE GONNA CHECK OUT WHAT YOU CREATED--

--OR WHAT?

WELL, erm---
--ONE HAS TO BE CAREFUL
IT COULD BE DEEPLY UNGRATEFUL TO ITS CREATOR.
IT MIGHT NOT WANT TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE TIES BETWEEN THEM, THE MUTUAL DEPENDENCE.
YOU ALWAYS RUN THE RISK OF MAKING--
--A MONSTER!

COMIC SHOP LOCATOR SERVICE. COMICSHOPLOCATOR.COM

IT MIGHT BE *CUTE.*

DON'T BE RIDICULOUS.

WHATEVER IT IS, THIS THING ISN'T REALLY HUMAN.

IT COULD SNAP A PERSON LIKE MATCHWOOD. IT COULD KILL WITH A *LOOK.*

WE DON'T KNOW THAT IT SHOULD EVEN LIVE AMONG NORMAL PEOPLE.

WOO. WHATEVER THIS IS--

--IT'S *GOT* TO YOU.

I HAVEN'T SEEN SUCH SHENANIGANS OVER REMOVING A SHEET SINCE HIGH SCHOOL.

TO WHICH I NEVER WENT, BUT HEY, I LIKED THE LINE.

MASTER--

--I THOUGHT YOU WEREN'T AFRAID OF *ANYTHING.*

LEAST OF ALL *BEDCLOTHES.*

OF COURSE NOT. BUT IS THERE SOMETHING...
...SOMETHING STRANGE ABOUT ALL THIS ?
LET ME HELP. SEE, WHAT YOU'VE SAID ABOUT WHAT'S UNDER THERE--
--IT APPLIES TO SO MANY PEOPLE
IS IT SUPERBOY UNDER THERE?
IS IT SUPERMAN?
HEY, IS IT ME?
OR, WOW, HERE'S THE KICKER, IS IT ACTUALLY--
QUIET!
I KNOW MYSELF.
I DON'T KNOW WHAT IT IS. BUT I AM NOT--
--AFRAID OF--!
--MYSELF.
YEAH.
THOUGHT SO.

WELL, THAT'S...

...THAT'S A *STRANGE* INTERPRETATION OF...

THE QUESTION INSTEAD IS...

...IS--

--WOULD YOU HAVE DONE THAT WITHOUT ME PROVOKING YOU?

NO. NO, YOU WOULD NOT.

THIS IS WHAT YOU *DON'T* LIKE TO CONSIDER ABOUT YOURSELF--

--YOU'RE A SOCIAL ANIMAL.

OF COURSE YOU ARE. YOU *REPRESENT* THE HUMAN RACE.

YOU WORK BEST, MASTER--

--WHEN YOU HAVE OTHER PEOPLE TO DO YOUR BIDDING. PEOPLE LIKE--

WAIT, WHAT'S THIS?!

THAT'S THE OPPOSITE OF WHAT I WANT HIM TO HEAR.
IS THAT LUTHOR'S MIND FIGHTING BACK?
OR IS SOMETHING INTERFERING?
I'VE PAUSED THE FANTASY.
BUT IF I'M GOING TO HAVE A CRACK AT HIS DEEP BRAIN, I'LL HAVE TO LET IT CONTINUE...
I MUST FIGHT BACK.
AGAINST WHATEVER THIS IS.
IT'LL MAKE THE FANTASY ROUGHER, LESS PLEASING...BUT NO, I HAVE TO ASSERT CONTROL.
I HOPE YOU APPRECIATE ALL I'M DOING FOR YOU.
NOT THAT I HAVE A CHOICE...

THE TOWNSPEOPLE!

DON'T LET THEM DRAG ME AWAY FROM YOU!

YOU UNGRATEFUL WRETCHES!

YOU *NEVER* UNDERSTAND! WHAT I'M DOING IS FOR YOUR BENEFIT, TO RAISE YOU UP!

LOIS, I'M TRYING TO--

--HOLD ON TO--

Am'
I REMEMBER--
--HER!
WHERE AM I?
WHERE IS SHE?
AND WHAT IS--
--THAT?
I KNOW HIM HE SHOULDN'T BE IN THE WILD WEST.
I SHOULDN'T BE IN THE WILD WEST...
SHERIFF, SHERIFF!
THERE YOU ARE!
IT'S BIG BLUE!
HE'S BACK IN TOWN!
Oh OF COURSE HE IS

ONLY YOU CAN SAVE US, SHERIFF!

YOU'RE LIKE US, BUT YOU'RE BETTER THAN US!

YOU DON'T NEED NO HELP!

BIG BLUE'S FROM OUT OF TOWN.

HE RIDES IN AND THINKS HE OWNS THE PLACE!

ONLY YOU CAN--

YES, YOU SAID.

THE FLATTERY AND THE OBSESSIVE ENMITY ARE WHAT YOU WANT ME TO PAY ATTENTION TO.

DON'T YOU KNOW I'M CLEVERER THAN THAT?

IN A WILD WEST FANTASY, WHERE DOES ONE FIND THOSE WANTED BY THE LAW?

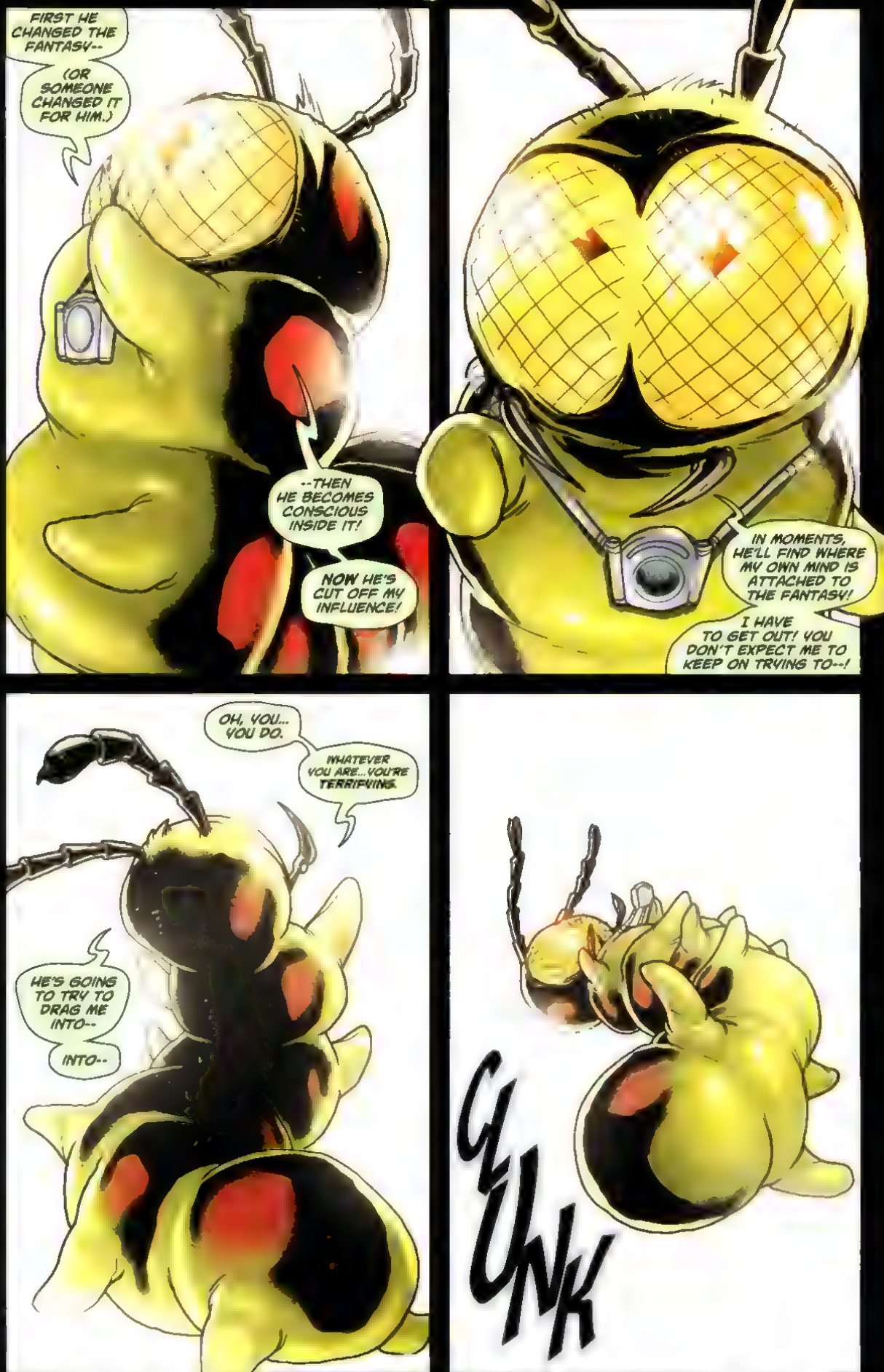
I...I...

YOU DON'T WANT TO TELL ME, MEANING THERE IS SOMEWHERE I CAN FIND MY REAL ENEMY. SO BEFORE "BIG BLUE" SHOOTS THE SHERIFF, WELL--

--CALL ME THE ANTI-BOB MARLEY.

BLAM

NOW, NOW WAIT A--


FIRST HE CHANGED THE FANTASY--
(OR SOMEONE CHANGED IT FOR HIM.)
--THEN HE BECOMES CONSCIOUS INSIDE IT!
NOW HE'S CUT OFF MY INFLUENCE!
IN MOMENTS, HE'LL FIND WHERE MY OWN MIND IS ATTACHED TO THE FANTASY!
I HAVE TO GET OUT! YOU DON'T EXPECT ME TO KEEP ON TRYING TO--!
OH, YOU... YOU DO.
WHATEVER YOU ARE...YOU'RE TERRIFYING.
HE'S GOING TO TRY TO DRAG ME INTO--
INTO--
CLUNK

OUR COVER...

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C'MON, SHOW US WHAT YOU'VE GOT!

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AH, YES...

...EXACTLY AS I EXPECTED.

XXX

IF YOU GO FOR YOUR GUN--

--I'LL BLOW HER MIND!

"MISTER MIND."
A TELEPATHIC ALIEN CATERPILLAR.
HAVEN'T YOU TURNED INTO A BUTTERFLY YET?
I'M ACTUALLY THE OFFSPRING OF THE ORIGINAL.
BUT OUR CONSCIOUSNESS IS PASSED DOWN ON A STRAND OF EIGHT-D R.N.A.--
YES, YES
WHY WOULD I HESITATE, WHEN SHE'S JUST A FANTASY? YOU'RE DESPERATE, RUNNING OUT OF TIME...
WINGING IT OH, SORRY--
--BAD CHOICE OF WORDS?
YOU THINK SOMEONE MIGHT SHOW UP AND DISTURB US, IN THE REAL WORLD.
WE'RE STILL ON THE ROOF OF THAT BUILDING, AREN'T WE?

HOW ARE YOU DOING THIS?!

DO YOU EVEN KNOW?!

AND YOU, A MULTIDIMENSIONAL PSYCHIC DEITY--

--ARE ACTUALLY AFRAID OF ME.

GrRsMph!

WHATEVER YOU'RE TRYING TO SAY--

I SUPPOSE IT'S POSSIBLE.

BUT... OH, I SEE!

LOIS, I THINK I CAN CONTROL THIS DREAM.

--SAY IT.

LEX, HE KNOWS YOU CAN TAKE CONTROL HERE, SO HE'S ABOUT TO CHANGE THE DREAM AND--

..AMBUSH YOU
AAGGGH!

Heh.

HE *HAS* TO TAKE HIS MATERIAL FROM MY CHILDHOOD FANTASIES.

I KNOW *THIS* DREAM SO WELL.

IF YOU WERE MY REAL LOIS ANDROID, I'D ERASE YOUR MEMORY OF THIS.

IT'S A LITTLE TOO REVEALING.

WHATEVER, COULD YOU JUST--?!

HAVE NO FEAR, LOIS--

THIS IS A JOB FOR--

LEX LUTHOR

YOUR HEART'S NOT IN THIS, MIND!
POW
AND YOU HAD NO REASON TO ATTACK ME.
YOU'RE AN UNWILLING STOOGE.
FOR WHOM?!
SOCK
I'M NOT TELLING YOU A THING.
YOU GAVE ME TIME TO CREATE THIS BATTLEFIELD. I'VE INVESTED ALL MY ENERGY INTO IT.
HERE I CAN WEAR YOU DOWN!
SO YOU PUT ALL YOUR EGGS IN ONE BASKET--
--WHEN THERE'S MORE THAN ONE BATTLEFIELD.
THEN ALL I HAVE TO DO IS--

*--TAKE CONTROL--

*--OF MY--

*--MOTOR REFLEXES."

PUNT

WHAT DID YOU JUST--?
OH. NOW... THAT'S--
--THAT'S JUST CHEATING.

AH!

UM, MR. LUTHOR--

--WE DIDN'T MEAN TO DO ANY OF THAT STUFF.

THAT *THING* WAS *CONTROLLING* US.

AND I'LL BE HAPPY TO EXPLAIN THAT TO THE AUTHORITIES--

--IN RETURN FOR YOU TELLING ME ALL YOU KNOW.

WOW. SOUNDS LIKE SOME TRIP.
IT WAS. DESPITE ITS WILDLY INACCURATE INTERPRETATIONS OF MY PERSONALITY.
BUT THAT'S NOT WHAT'S IMPORTANT.
THE MESSAGE THOSE FIRST TWO FANTASIES WERE TRYING TO IMPART--
--WAS THAT I DON'T NEED HELP FROM ANYONE.
WAS THAT A TRAP?
WAS IT A WARNING?
LEX...
YOU SAY I WAS IN THOSE DREAMS.
THAT KIND OF WEIRDS ME OUT
WHAT WAS I LIKE? HOW DID YOU SEE ME?

SHE WAS... INTERESTING.

SHE WANTED TO HELP ME.

IF SHE WAS A PART OF MY OWN MIND...THEN SHE WAS A MOST *USEFUL* PART.

"INTERESTING"! "USEFUL"!

I GUESS, COMING FROM YOU, THAT'S FLATTERY!

SHE SAID SHE'D NEVER BEEN TO HIGH SCHOOL.

DO YOU THINK YOU HAVE?

OF COURSE NOT.

SURE, I HAVE SOME SURFACE MEMORIES.

THEY CAME WITH THE LOIS LANE D.N.A. TRACES YOU PROGRAMMED ME WITH.

BUT: BZZT. DOES NOT COMPUTE. DESTROY THE FLESHY ONES--

--I GET IT! I'M A ROBOT!

WE'LL HAVE TO LEAVE THOSE MYSTERIES FOR ANOTHER TIME
I'VE HAD THE DATA ABOUT THE ENERGY PATTERN LEFT BY THE BLACK LANTERN RINGS MADE INTO A MAP
TOMORROW, WE LEAVE FOR THE FIRST LOCATION--
--OUR FIRST STEP ON THE ROAD TO UNLOCKING THAT POWER.
"WE"?
WE.
IF SOMETHING LIKE MISTER MIND WANTED TO URGE ME TO WORK ALONE--
--THEN I'M INCLINED TO TAKE THE TEAM ALONG.

INDEED, IF THAT CATERPILLAR *WAS* WORKING FOR SOME GREATER POWER, FOR REASONS I CAN'T YET FATHOM--

*--I'M INCLINED TO BRING ALONG A *SPECIALIST.**

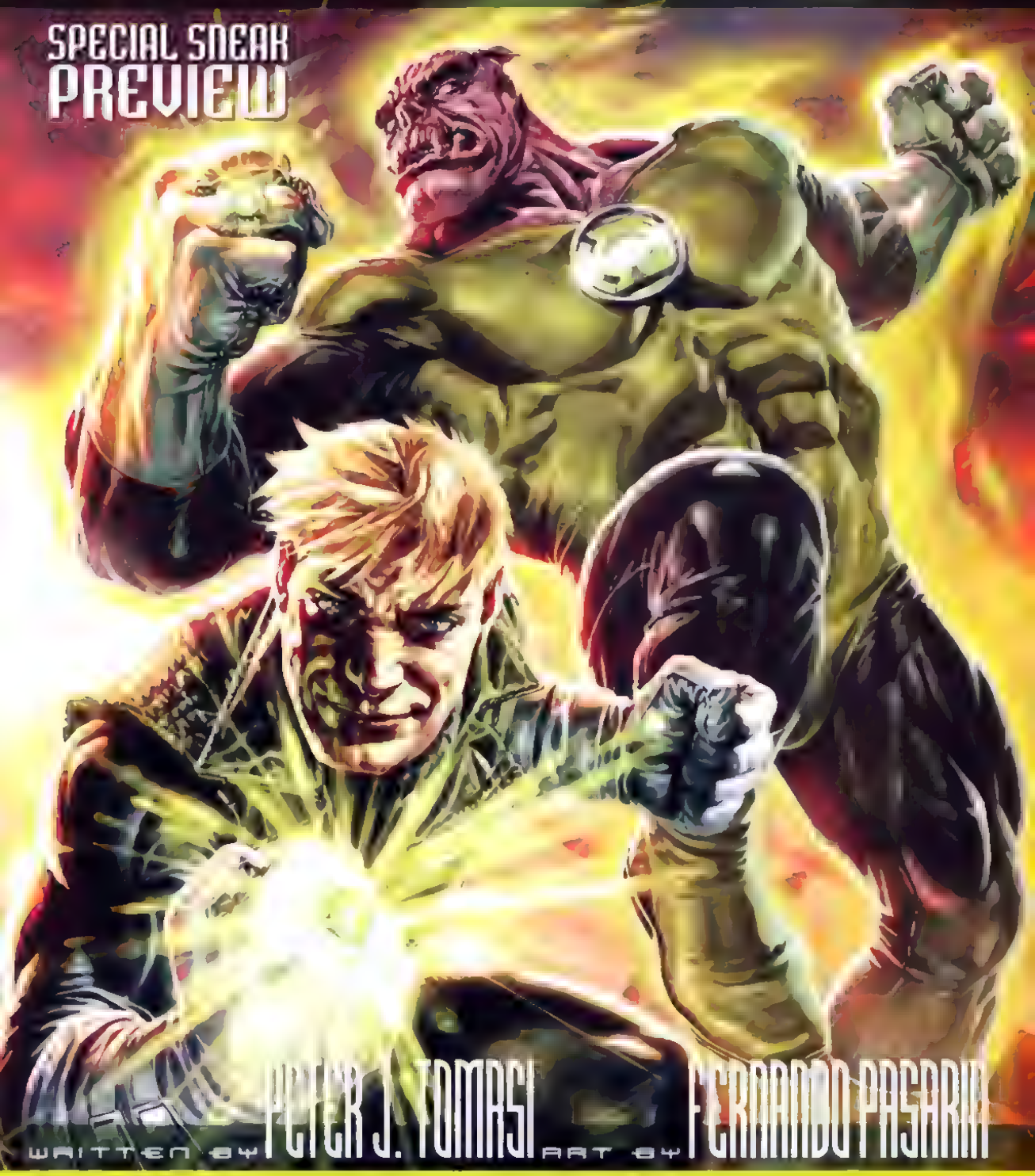
INCOMING CALL
ENCRYPTED LINE

NEXT:
DEATHSTROKE
ON ICE!

BRINGING ORDER TO THE UNIVERSE ONE SECTOR AT A TIME

NO MATTER HOW MUCH IT HURTS!!

SPECIAL SNEAK PREVIEW



WRITTEN BY PETER J. TOMASI ART BY FERNANDO PASARIN

COVERS BY RODOLFO MIGLIARI & LEE BERMEJO

MONTHLY AUGUST 2010

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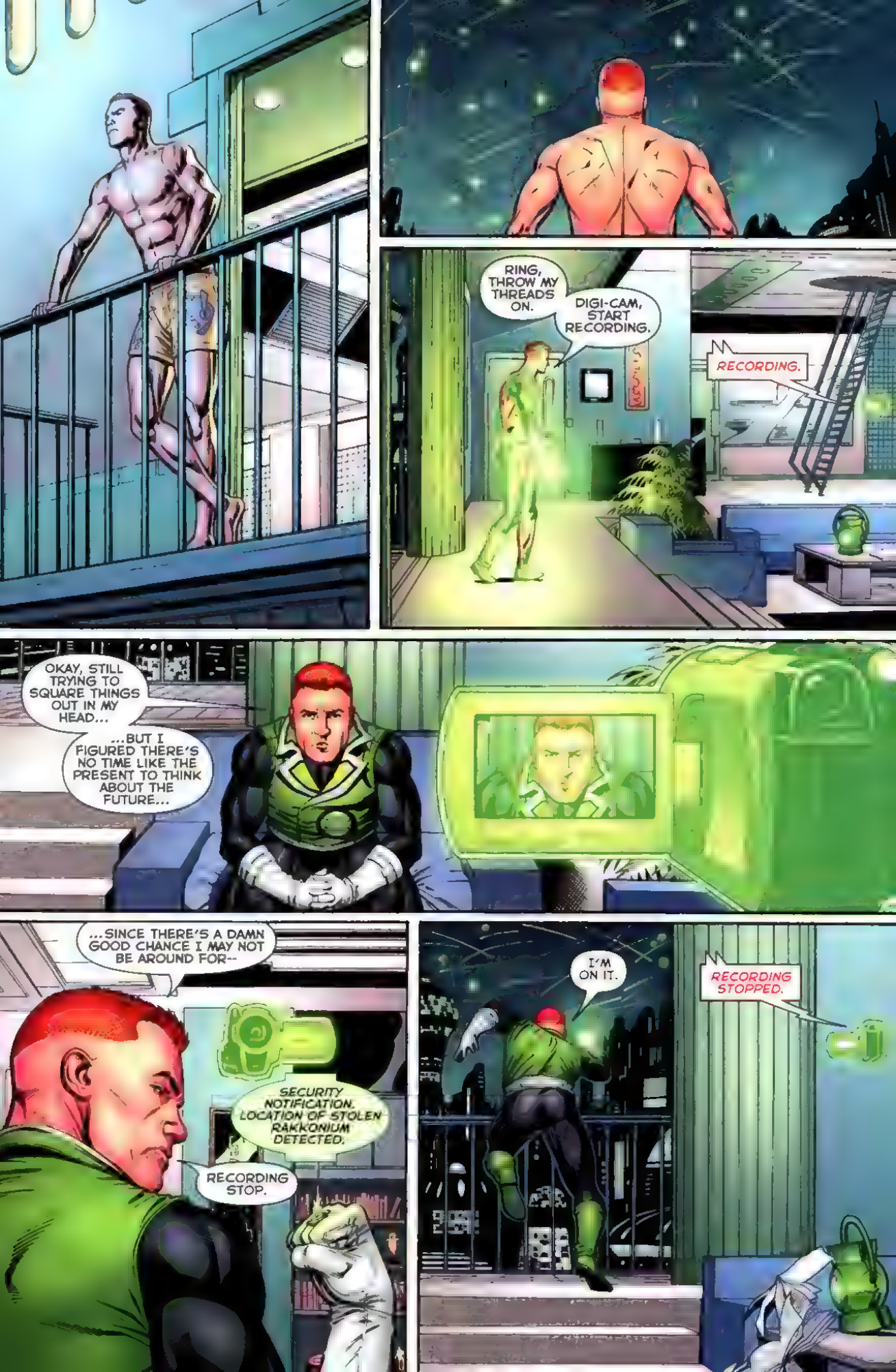
GREEN LANTERN EMERALD WARRIORS

SECTOR 2814.

THE PLANET OA.

WELCOME TO THE GUARDIANS OF THE UNIVERSE AND THE GREEN LANTERN CORPS.


RING, THROW MY THREADS ON.
DIGI-CAM, START RECORDING.
RECORDING.
OKAY, STILL TRYING TO SQUARE THINGS OUT IN MY HEAD...
...BUT I FIGURED THERE'S NO TIME LIKE THE PRESENT TO THINK ABOUT THE FUTURE...
...SINCE THERE'S A DAMN GOOD CHANCE I MAY NOT BE AROUND FOR--
SECURITY NOTIFICATION. LOCATION OF STOLEN RAKKONIUM DETECTED.
RECORDING STOP.
I'M ON IT.
RECORDING STOPPED.

SPACE SECTOR 3606

NAME'S GUY GARDNER.
I'M A COP.
YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO SCREAM AS LOUD AS YA WANT WHILE I KICK YOUR @$$!
LAST WILL
PETER J. TOMASI: STORY & WORDS
FERNANDO PASARIN: PENCILLER
CAM SMITH : INKER
RANDY MAYOR: COLORIST
STEVE WANDS: LETTERER
ADAM SCHLAGMAN: EDITOR
GREEN LANTERN
EMERALD WARRIORS #1
IS BRINGIN' THE LAW TO THE UNKNOWN SECTORS IN AUGUST! YOU GOT A PROBLEM WITH THAT?!

HEY, DC NATION!

We're still cleaning off our desks after being gone at San Diego Comic-Con so I'm gonna keep it short and just present you with this stunning image. Who is this woman and why is she crying? You'll find out the answer sooner than you think.

Be seeing you,

Ian Sattler

- Senior Story Editor, DCU

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HE'S LEARNED THE
WAYS OF THE WORLD.

NOW IF HE COULD JUST SOLVE
THE MYSTERIES OF HIGH SCHOOL.

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